

**REMARKS**

As a result of the above amendments, all of claims 1-58 have been cancelled in the interest of expediting prosecution, and claims 59-70 have been added and are now pending in the application.

Claims 59-70 are based on the specification, particularly pages 12-14. These claims are similar to original claims 16-21. In previous Office Actions, no rejection of claims 16-21 was made on prior art. Claims 16, 18, and 21 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph due to a purported lack of enablement, and claims 17, 19, and 20 were previously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite. Insofar as these rejections may be deemed to apply to claims 59-70, the rejections are traversed.

The previous rejection of claims 16, 18, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, stated that these claims were rejected “for the same reasons as claim 1.” The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph contended that “(i)t does not appear possible to optimize the netlist and the placement properties simultaneously.” Claim 1 included optimizing the netlist and placement properties of a design concurrently. However, claims 16, 18, and 21 did not, nor do claims 59-70. Accordingly, this previous rejection is not applicable to claims 59-70.

The previous rejection of claims 17 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph contended that the specification “does not enable simultaneous convergence in the three domains.” These claims, and claims 60 and 68 include repeating the method until design convergence is achieved. Convergence is known in the art. For example, see the Shenoy reference at column 3, lines 52-55. Accordingly, this previous rejection would not be appropriate as to claim 59-70.

The previous rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph contended

that “(i)t is not clear what ‘convergence’ means with respect to optimizing the three domains.” However, as set forth above, claim 17, and claims 60 and 68 include repeating the method until design convergence is achieved. Convergence is known in the art. For example, see the Shenoy reference at column 3, lines 52-55. Accordingly, this previous rejection would not be appropriate as to claim 59-70.

The previous rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, contended that “(t)he term ‘interspersed’ appears to imply sequential transformations, however, the preamble of claim 1 states ‘applying transforms for simultaneously modifying a plurality of domains’. Thus, the implied sequential transformation of claim 19 appears contradictory to the ‘simultaneously’ of base claim 1.” The previous rejection of claim 20, which was dependent from claim 19, contended that claim 20 was indefinite “for the same reasons as claim 19.” However, claim 19 was not dependent from claim 1; it was dependent from independent claim 16 which said nothing about applying transforms for simultaneously modifying a plurality of domains. Likewise, claims 59-70 say nothing about applying transforms for simultaneously modifying a plurality of domains. Claims 59, 63, and 67 do recite “applying transforms that change the physical, electrical, and Boolean transforms concurrently,” and claims 61, 65, and 69 recite that “blocks of each of the physical optimizations, electrical optimizations, and Boolean optimizations are interspersed together.”

One exemplary example of this is described on pages 13 and 14 of the specification. Accordingly, this previous rejection would not be appropriate as to claims 59-70.

Thus, none of the previous rejections is appropriate as to claims 59-70, and claims 59-70 distinguish patentably from the prior art.

The corrected drawing of Figure 2 submitted December 30, 2003 inadvertently changed reference character F' in Figure 1 to F. By the above drawing amendment the

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reference character F' has been returned.

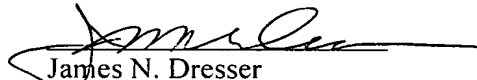
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 59-70, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

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Respectfully Submitted,

  
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**AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWING**

Figure 1 is amended by amending the lower reference character "F" to -- F'--.

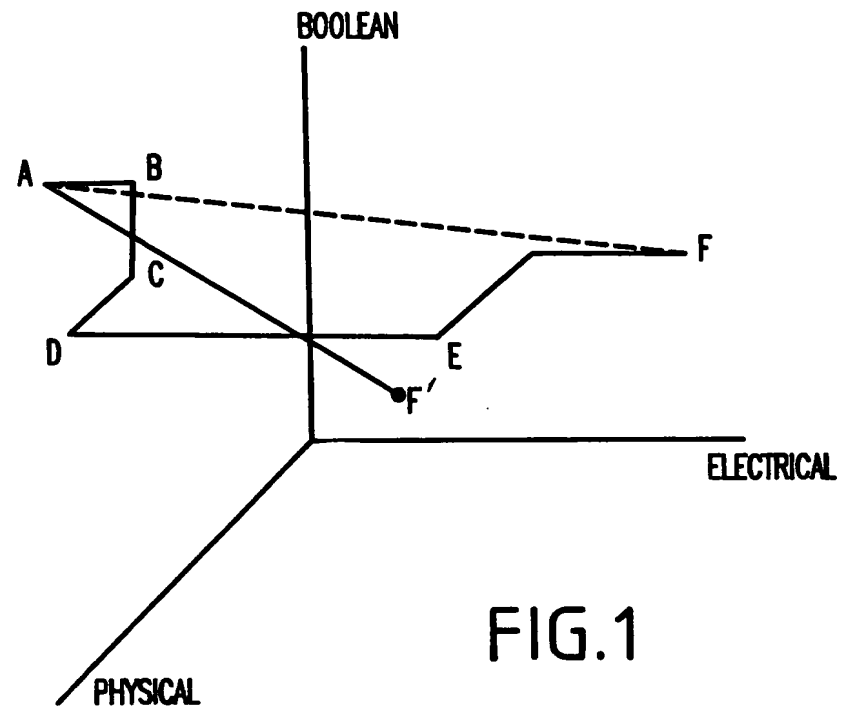


FIG. 1

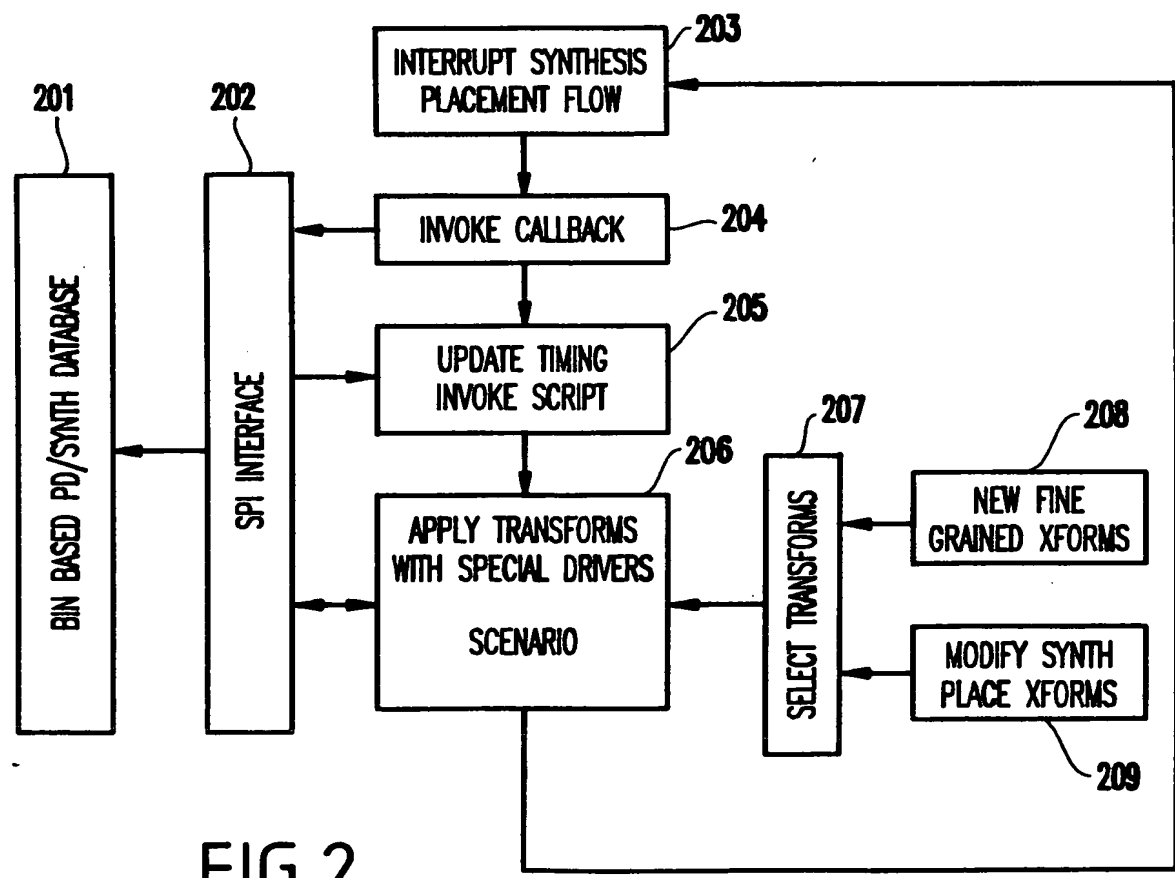


FIG. 2